



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Geological Survey

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### INTERIOR DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES NEW POSTER TO TEACH STUDENTS ABOUT WETLANDS

The Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) today announced publication of a new wetlands educational poster to aid teachers of science and environmental topics.

The poster, "Wetlands: Water, Wildlife, Plants and People," offers fun classroom activities for elementary and middle schools to help children learn about the many values of wetlands. The poster is a cooperative venture by FWS, USGS, the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Science Teachers Association, and the American Water Resources Association.

"We want to help teachers show kids why we need to conserve wetlands," said John Turner, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "The future of our remaining wetlands depends on our children."

"Wetlands represent complicated crossroads on the land surface," said USGS Director Dallas Peck, "where biologic, hydrologic, and manmade forces meet and mingle. This poster provides a good tool for understanding both the complications and the need to protect the wetland environment."

The poster shows various kinds of wetlands and how people use them. The back of the poster explains wetland types, defines important terms, and suggests activities teachers can use to help students learn about wetlands. The poster is available in three versions, including two in color: elementary level (kindergarten through grade 5) and middle school (grades 6 through 8). A black and white version with no text on the back is also available for younger children to color.

The wetlands poster is being distributed to approximately 50,000 science teachers through "Science Scope" and "Science and Children," publications of the National Science Teachers Association. An additional 200,000 copies of the poster will be distributed to educators through other channels.

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Wetlands -- which include swamps, marshes, bogs, potholes, and other permanently or seasonally flooded areas -- provide vital wildlife habitat, help control floods, and improve water quality.

"Wetlands" is the third in a series of nine posters on water resources education, initiated in response to President Bush's Education 2000 challenge. "Wetlands" can be attached to the first two posters to create a mural. The other two posters are called "Water, the Resource that Gets Used and Used and Used for Everything," and "Wastewater Treatment." They were produced by the U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, American Water Resources Association, and the National Science Teachers Association.

Copies of "Wetlands" can be obtained from: U.S. Geological Survey, Branch of Distribution, Box 25286, Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225, or from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Publications Unit, 4401 North Fairfax Dr., MS 130, Arlington, VA 22203. Copies of the first two posters in the series are available from the American Water Resources Association, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 220, Bethesda, MD 20814-2192, and the National Science Teachers Association, 1742 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20009.